

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6922

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA AND LOPEZ PORTILLO TOGETHER ON MILITARY OCCASION

1. MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS FRONTPAGED AND IN SOME CASES HEAD-LINED THE APPEARANCE TOGETHER OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO AT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE BUILDING USED FOR THE HEROIC MILITARY COLLEGE. (MEXICAN MILITARY ACADEMY). (A NEW BUILDING WILL BE INAUGURATED IN MID-SEPTEMBER). MOST NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PHOTOS OF THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING PRESIDENTS SHAKING HANDS, STANDING TOGETHER ON THE PODIUM, AND INSPECTING THE OLD FACILITIES TOGETHER. DAO OFFICER WHO WAS PRESENT WAS IMPRESSED WITH CORDIALITY THE PRESIDENT DISPLAYED TOWARDS LOPEZ PORTILLO BUT ALSO WITH THE CARE LOPEZ PORTILLO TOOK NOT TO UPSTAGE THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN HIS REMARKS THE PRESIDENT GAVE WARM PRAISE TO MEXICO'S ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR LOYALTY TO THE NATION AND FOR THEIR ROLE AS GUARANTOR OF THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

3. COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST FORMAL APPEARANCE OF THE TWO MEN IN PUBLIC TOGETHER SINCE LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS NOMINATED LAST SEPTEMBER 22.

IT COULD BE AN EFFORT TO GIVE PUBLIC BUT SUBTLE REFUTATION

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TO REPORTS OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN AND TO EVEN

STRONGER RUMORS WHICH WERE ABETTED BY THE ABORTED ATTEMPT
ON THE LIFE AUGUST 11 OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S SISTER.
JOVA

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